

Sergeant Major Mark C. Freres



Sergeant Major Freres enlisted in the Marine Corps on 21, August 1982 and attended Recruit Training at MCRD San Diego, California. Graduating on 14, November 1982 he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class as the Platoon Honor Man.

Assigned to the 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton California as a student in the Field Artillery Cannon Crewman Course. He excelled at school by finishing second and was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal in March 1983. Further assigned to Battery M, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, LCpl Freres was placed on the

Battalion's Personal Reliability Program (PRP) and attended Nuclear Weapons Training Group Pacific Course conducted at Coronado, California. He was meritoriously promoted to Corporal on 2 June 1983. Promoted to Sergeant in April 1984 he served as special security guard force for the 1984 summer Olympics, held in Los Angeles, California.

Receiving orders and reported to the First Marine Amphibious Brigade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii for duty with 1st Battalion, 12th Marines as a Section Chief and Platoon Sergeant.

In November 1989 Sergeant Freres received orders to report to the Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma for duty as an instructor with the Enlisted Instructor Branch, US Army Field Artillery School. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant in November 1991.

Returning to Hawaii in June 1992 he again joined the 12th Marines and was assigned as the Battalion's Fire Direction Chief and Battalion Operations Chief. In-addition to his primary duties and responsibilities within the Battalion he was tasked with the development of the 3d Marine Regiment's automated fire support capability.

Requesting and receiving orders to Parris Island, South Carolina Staff

Sergeant Freres reported to drill instructor class 2-96 graduating in the top 10 percent of his class. Prior to reporting to Company H 2d Recruit Training Battalion he attended the Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival School (MCIWS). In his third platoon as a Senior Drill Instructor his platoon set the Depot Rifle Range qualification record. Staff Sergeant Freres was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in August 1997. In his tour his Platoons won 3 Final Drill Competitions.

In May of 1998 Gunnery Sergeant Freres transferred to Battalion Landing Team 1/6, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As part of the 24th MEU (SOC) Gunnery Sergeant Freres participated in Operations Allied Force and Noble Anvil in Kosovo.

Gunnery Sergeant Freres transferred to the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Quantico, Virginia in June 1999 and held the billets of Faculty Advisor, Chief Instructor and SNCOIC of the Career Course.

Promoted to First Sergeant in October 2001, First Sergeant Freres held billets in Weapons Company, Headquarters and Service Company and Bravo Company 1st Battalion 6th Marines. In 2004 he deployed to Afghanistan with 22d MEU (SOC) for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Promoted to his current rank in January 2005, Sergeant Major Freres served as Marine Transportation Squadron One Sergeant Major at Marine Corps Air Bases East, Cherry Point, North Carolina. As of January 2006, Sergeant Major Freres is currently serving as IIIMEF 5TH ANGLICO Sergeant Major at Camp Hansen, Okinawa Japan.

Sergeant Major Freres' personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 2 stars, Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with 3 stars, Army Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon with gold star.